

CARTSNEWS

The Official Journal of the Carolina Token Society

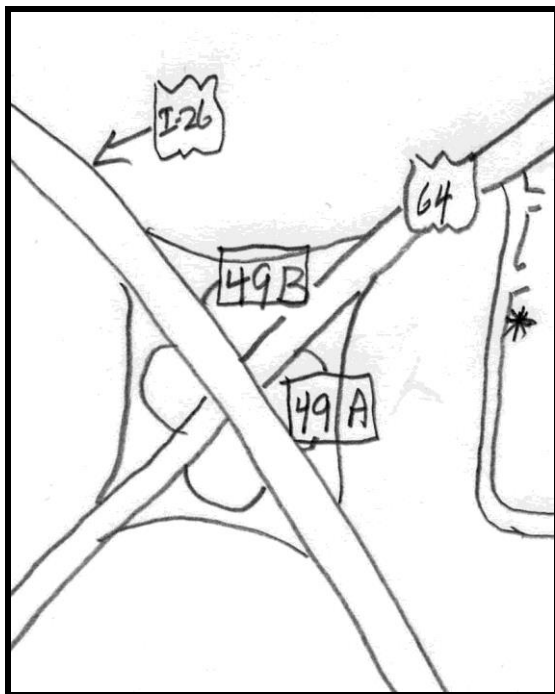
ISSUE #22

May 2009

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Certainly the most important happening is the May meeting of CARTS. Recall we meet in **Hendersonville on May 30 at the Ramada Limited from 9:00 to 1:00.** A rather primitive map is shown below but the motel is easy to find. **From I-26 take exit 49A. At the first traffic light turn right onto Sugarloaf Road.** The **Ramada Limited** will be on your left shortly – maybe the equivalent of two or three city blocks.

The mountains are beautiful just now, and there will be tokens, tokens, tokens. Be sure to attend.



But, as always, your editor needs classified ads, new finds, articles of any sort. And, CARTS could certainly use a few additional members. If you will send the name and address of a potential member, a sample copy of CARTSNEWS will be sent immediately. (Note that the editors' email address has changed.)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hello to all CARTS members,

I hope you are enjoying the beautiful spring weather while you read this newsletter. Perhaps it has not gotten too hot in your part of the country yet. I don't know about you but I've had a very productive year so far in adding tokens to my collection. I've acquired 32 tokens since January 1st and that has to be a recent record for me. I think that the recession and the spike in gold and silver prices have drawn more collectors to the coin shows and have given them reason to clear out unwanted items. Many of those "unwanted" items have found a nice new home in my collection!

I would like to remind everyone that our spring meeting is coming a little late this year. The get-together is scheduled for Saturday, May 30th in Hendersonville, NC. See elsewhere in this issue for the particulars of time and place.

I hope to see everyone there and if you have any "unwanted" SC items, you know who to contact!

Regards,
Tony Chibbaro - CARTS President

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Comments, suggestions, reactions, (maybe even) criticism, will be gratefully accepted. Let us know!
Articles, New Finds, Announcements, and Classifieds to Don Bailey only! Dues to Bob King only!

UNION

SOUTH CAROLINA WANTED

POSTCARDS, TOKENS, PAPER MONEY

William M. Graham

106 Hidden Hills Road, Union, SC 29379

864-427-9560

864-429-1260

MILL TOKENS OF THE NORTH CAROLINA HOLT FAMILY

Lamar Bland

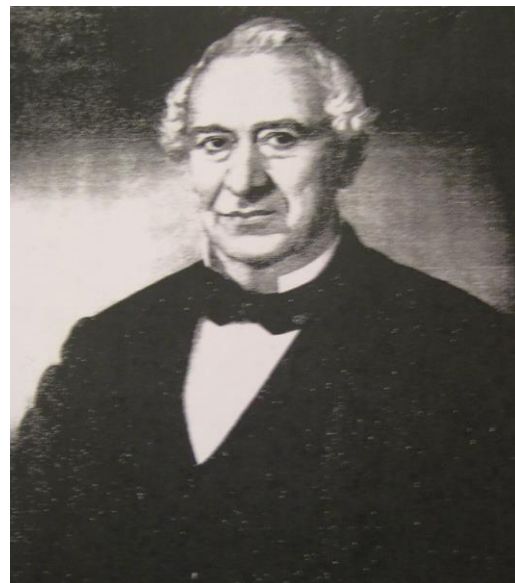
I first learned of tokens related to the Holt family of Alamance County, North Carolina, in the summer of 2008. I had traded for the following Holt Hosiery Mills token.



**HOLT HOSIERY MILLS INC. // GOOD FOR / 5¢ / IN
TRADE**

My effort to learn more about that token led me to research three generations of Holts who have shaped North Carolina's cotton mill industry.

THE FIRST GENERATION



E. M. Holt

This pioneering industry began in 1837 with the construction of the Alamance Cotton Factory south of Burlington on Alamance Creek. One of the two

original owners was Edwin Michael Holt (1807-1884). His factory made Alamance Plaids, a dyed cotton cloth, which became a staple in Southern life until well after the Civil War. E.M. Holt may well have been the first Holt to use tokens in the textile business. Dr. William Vincent, curator of the Alamance County Historical Museum (housed in the old Holt homeplace), reports that a visitor to the museum once showed him a token bearing the Alamance Cotton Factory imprint. Thus far, such a token has yet to be confirmed by others.



Alamance Cotton Factory

Holt fathered seven sons and three daughters. Of the five sons who followed him into the cotton mill business, William Edwin Holt (1839-1917) and Lawrence Shackelford Holt (1851-1937) are my chief interests.

THE SECOND GENERATION



Lawrence Holt

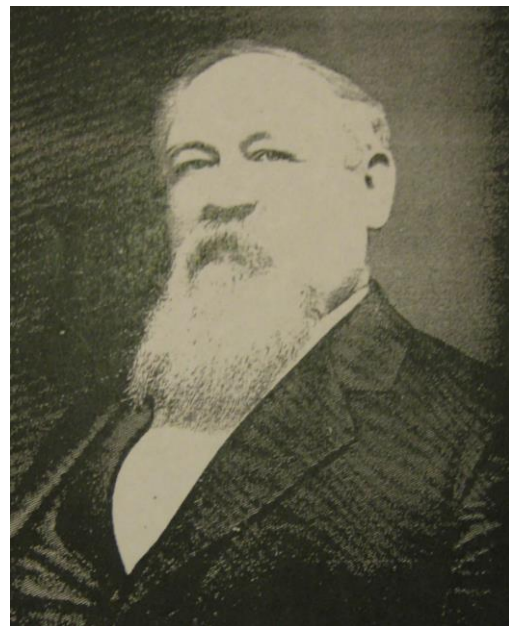
The youngest child of E.M. Holt, Lawrence became a mill owner in 1885 when he purchased the Lafayette Cotton Mill (the oldest and largest operation in Burlington in the early 1880's) from his cousin Lafayette Holt. Though it had pioneered steam power and knit fabrics, the mill changed when Lawrence re-named it Aurora Cotton Mills and emphasized the weaving and finishing of gingham. Aurora thrived under the leadership of Holt (and his sons) for the next 40 years, eventually becoming Standard Hosiery Mills in 1926. At one time the Aurora Mill village housed 90 families.



Aurora Cotton Mills

A uniface token from this mill is known, reading:

**AURORA COTTON MILLS / (cylindrical cut out)
ONE MEAL / 40c/ BURLINGTON, NC**

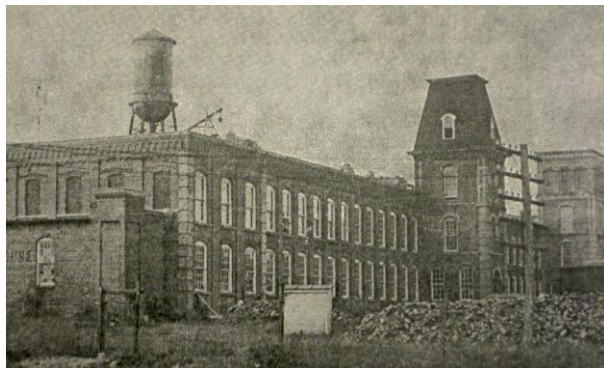


W. E. Holt

During the same era, Lawrence's older brother, William Edwin (1839-1917), expanded Holt textiles to the west in North Carolina – to Lexington. Known to some in the family as "Uncle Bill," and to others as "Whiskey

Bill”, William married Amelia Lloyd Holt (his cousin) in 1871. She gradually persuaded him to make Lexington home for their growing family of eight. Having been tutored by his father in the production of “Alamance Plaids” in Burlington, William built Wennonah Cotton Mills in 1886-7, and added Wennonah Mills # 2 in 1892-3. Next was The Nokomis Cotton Mill in 1900, followed in 1910 by the Dacotah Cotton Mill. The unusual Indian names for the mills came from Longfellow’s poem “Hiawatha,” a favorite of Holt’s Victorian wife.

Because business prospered, William began taking on partners. These included his son William Edwin Holt, Jr., Joe V. Moffitt, brother-in-law C. A. Hunt, and eventually their descendants. Their four mills established the favorable business culture in Lexington which attracted the huge Erlanger textile plant of the next generation



Wennonah Mill #1

Tokens were issued by all of these mills associated with the Holt family. The following are known.



DACOTAH LUNCH / 5¢ / In Trade // (same)

WENNONAH / (ORNAMENT) / *LUNCH* // GOOD FOR / 5¢ / IN TRADE

WENNONAH / (ORNAMENT) / *LUNCH* // GOOD FOR / 25¢ / IN TRADE

SPOOLER / * / * NOKOMIS * / * / CHECK // (BLANK)

I am grateful to Bob King for his descriptions of these Lexington tokens. He believes that the Wennonah tokens were used in the mill cafeteria, which could have been operating for two generations between 1900 and 1960.

A local source in Davidson County claims to have seen Dacotah Lunch tokens in a 10 and 25 cents variety as well. Although King is not convinced that this food facility was affiliated with the mill, the local source seemed sure that it was. King believes that Dandy Lunch served Dacotah Cotton Mills in the early years of its business, and issued the following token in two varieties of metal.

(ORN) DANDY LUNCH (ORN) / (LARGE ORNAMENT) / LUNCH // GOOD FOR / 5¢ / IN TRADE

THE THIRD GENERATION

When my focus turned to the third generation, I returned to Alamance County, where my research on the Holt Hosiery Mills token had begun. I interviewed a Holt – specifically Ralph Holt, Jr. president of Holt Hosiery Mills from the 1960’s until his recent retirement. Ralph descended from Jeremiah Holt in the 19th century, said by one source to be either a brother or cousin of E.M. Holt.

To my surprise, though he owned a Holt token like mine, Ralph could not remember seeing one during his presidency. He thought the token likely related to his father’s era, which would locate it in the 1930’s. But later I saw a duplicate in The Alamance County Historical Museum. There, curator Bill Vincent said the token probably dates to the 1910-1920 decade. Also, he believes it was minted in two different sizes.

If Vincent is right, that would position the Holt Hosiery Mills token in the great transition era in Alamance County when many of the cotton mills converted to knitting and manufacturing hosiery. Ahead lay synthetic fabrics, products like Pantyhose, and manufacturing giants like Glen Raven Mills and Burlington Industries.

Records kept in The Textile Heritage Museum in the Glencoe Mill Village indicate that knitted fabric appeared gradually after its origin at Lafayette Cotton Mill in the early 1880’s. The first mill to use “hosiery” in its name was Daisy Hosiery Mill in the 1890’s. By

the decade of the 1920's, six or more businesses identified themselves as hosiery mills.

Thereafter the expansion was phenomenal! By the 1940's, there were more than fifty mills with "Hosiery" in their name, many of them associated with Holt owners. Since the Holt Hosiery Mills token has "Inc" in its title, and Glencoe records do not indicate Holt Hosiery Mills as incorporated until the 1930's, Bill Vincent's earliest dating of it may be questionable.

There are also tokens from other hosiery mills not associated with Holt ownership. But they likely result from the mid-20th century explosion of mills stimulated by the Holts. Two which recently surfaced are:

**RAY HODGES/ (ORNAMENT) / SCOTT'S /
HOSIERY / MILL / (ORNAMENT) / GRAHAM,
NC // GOOD FOR / 5 c / IN TRADE**



**TOWER HOSIERY MILL / (cut out "T") /
BURLINGTON, N. C. // (blank)**

Because the Holts had large families, I found different lines of Holt descent through the three generations I researched. I have not determined how many Holts became mill owners, but it seems certain that there are other tokens awaiting discovery which can be associated with the larger Holt family.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

I am indebted to the following for information and source material:

- Kathy Barry and Jerrie Nall of the Textile Heritage Museum in Glencoe, N.C.
- Catherine Hoffmann and her staff at The Davidson County Historical Museum, Lexington, N.C.
- Ralph Holt, Jr. of Burlington, N.C.
- Bill Vincent of the Alamance County Historical Museum.

SOURCES:

- *Eugene Holt, Edwin Michael Holt and His Descendants: 1807-1948*, Richmond, 1949.

- *The Alamance News/Burlington Journal* (Special Centennial Edition), Feb 11, 1993.
- *The Wannonah Story: One Hundredth Anniversary – 1886-1986*, Lexington, N.C.

My Top Ten List of South Carolina Tokens

Tony Chibbaro

In the November 2008 issue of *Talkin' Tokens*, the monthly magazine of the National Token Collectors Association, collector Alan Weinberg wrote an article entitled "The Dirty Dozen." In it he illustrated a dozen of his personal, all-time favorite western trade tokens along with brief commentary on each one. In the next issue, New Mexico collector Billy Kiser did the same for his home state with an article titled "Top 10 New Mexico Tokens." I was hoping that additional similar articles would follow, outlining other collectors' top picks from their areas of expertise. But no others have materialized, so I decided to pen my own and also to issue a challenge to other collectors to do the same. Pick out your favorite ten or twelve tokens and write a short paragraph or two about each one and send it in for publication. If you don't have a camera, I'm sure that you can find a fellow collector who will snap some photos for you. I think that I can speak for most of us when saying that such articles make for great reading.

So, now for my personal, all-time favorite top ten South Carolina tokens, starting with number 10 and counting down to number 1.



10. Clifton Manufacturing Company, (Clifton, SC), 50 cents. No discussion of South Carolina tokens would be complete without mentioning the cotton mill industry. The farming of cotton and its manufacture into yarn and finished goods played a large part in the state's recovery from the devastation wrought by General Sherman and the Civil War. Scores of cotton mills were built from the 1880s to the 1930s and the employees were often paid with tokens. This aluminum token from Clifton Manufacturing Company is significant not only because it is the only specimen

known to exist from this mill, but also from the fact that the community suffered a devastating flood on June 6, 1903 when the Pacolet River overran its banks and 80 people drowned. The bottom two floors of the mill were completely destroyed and so was the company store, possibly accounting for the rarity of this token.



9. Atlantic Coast Lumber Company, Georgetown, SC, 1 dollar. The lumber industry was also prominent in South Carolina's recovery from the Civil War, and the Atlantic Coast Lumber Company was the largest lumber mill in the state (as well as the entire eastern seaboard). The company was formed in 1899 and cut millions of board feet of lumber until it closed in the early 1930s. Several different sets of tokens were utilized by the company over the years, but this rectangular aluminum token seems to be one of the earliest issued. I like it for its interesting style as well as for its rarity (only two known).



8. J.C. Seegers & Company, Columbia, SC, 10 cents. Any meaningful list of popular trade tokens

must also contain at least one saloon token. Collectors of South Carolina tokens are unfortunate, however, because there are no known saloon tokens from the state. Yes, you read correctly, there are no tokens of which I am presently aware that have the word "saloon" in their inscriptions. The brass token issued by J.C. Seegers above was used in the saloon that he operated in conjunction with his brewery, but Seegers didn't see fit to put the magic word on his token. The token was issued in the mid-to-late 1870s, when the state government allowed saloons to operate freely. In 1893, however, the state dispensary system was instituted and liquor by the drink was outlawed. This fact may account for the absence of "true" saloon tokens after 1893, but doesn't speak to their nonexistence before that date. I'm not sure exactly why none have been found, but speaking from many years of research it seems to me that the word "saloon" was just not a popular name for drinking establishments in the state. I know of only three examples of Seegers' 10 cent token pictured above. He also, supposedly, issued a 25 cent token in German silver, which was listed many, many years ago by Adams, and later Miller and Rulau. I have never encountered this token or seen any pictures of it. Perhaps it is sitting in some old-time collection somewhere waiting to be "rediscovered."



7. Chicco's Cafe, (Charleston, SC), 5 cents. This aluminum token is the closest that a collector can get to a true saloon token from South Carolina. On its face it seems to be your standard 5¢ cafe token, but the unusual thing about it is the picture of the blind-folded tiger on the reverse, and that is the reason for my statement immediately above. In the parlance of the 1890s, a "blind tiger" was a euphemism for the word saloon; it was used in the same manner in which the phrase "speak easy" came into vogue in the time of prohibition. Vincent Chicco was the owner of Chicco's Cafe, and from the advent of the state-ordered dispensary system in 1893 he made himself a thorn in the side of the tee-totalers. He was arrested numerous times for keeping his patrons well-lubricated with alcohol and even "advertised" his business in this unique roundabout way on his tokens. At present, only one specimen is known.

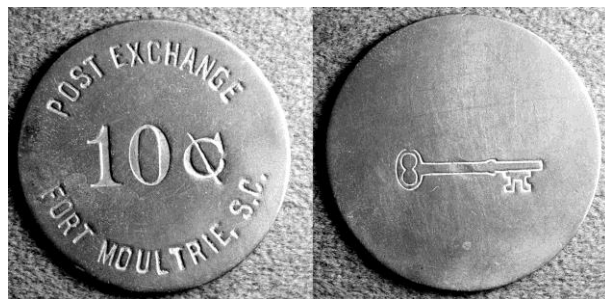


6. J.B. Bissell, (Yemassee, SC), 5 cents. The brass incuse token pictured above is one of the few South Carolina tokens that can be documented to have been issued to ex-slaves. In 1885, when J.B. Bissell issued this token for payment of the field workers on his rice plantation, most of his workforce consisted of African Americans who had been slaves some 20 years earlier. Bissell was one of the landed gentry of the South Carolina Lowcountry and owned a large mansion in downtown Charleston, as well as several plantations in the surrounding area. Rice planting was on the decline in the 1880s and was almost totally defunct by 1900; but it had been South Carolina's premier industry prior to the onset of the Civil War. Its reliance on the cheap labor that was slavery made it unprofitable after the war, and this, along with a couple of severe hurricanes, accounted for its demise. Six or eight of Bissell's 5 cent tokens are known (most have been dug), but only a single 10 cent specimen is presently known.



5. Wm. L. Bradley, Bulow Store, (Stono, SC), 25 cents. William L. Bradley purchased the Bulow Plantation south of Charleston in the late 1870s, when deposits of phosphate rock were discovered in the lowcountry of South Carolina. Chemical fertilizers had just come into widespread use and phosphate rock was utilized in their production. Bradley was a native of Boston and owned several fertilizer factories on the East Coast. He set up his South Carolina factory in Charleston and supplied it with phosphate rock from the Bulow Plantation and other sites he owned. A company store was built on the plantation and the workers were paid with tokens. Two different sets of three

denominations exist. These tokens are not exceedingly rare, but are great historical pieces. The phosphate industry in South Carolina was short-lived; production was virtually exhausted by 1900.



4. Post Exchange, Fort Moultrie, SC, 10 cents. Fort Moultrie is one of South Carolina's most historic sites. The fort participated in one of the earliest battles in the Revolutionary War, repelling British warships intent on capturing Charleston in 1776, as well as firing some of the shells which initiated the Civil War in 1861. The fort also was garrisoned, but saw no action, during the War of 1812, the Spanish American War, and World Wars I & II. Several different tokens were issued by the post exchange at the fort, but these large brass incuse pieces seem to be not only the earliest, but also the rarest. I know of only two 10 cent pieces with the key counterstamp on the reverse. By the way, the key is one of the insignias of the Army's quartermaster corps.



3. Haile Gold Mining Co., Haile Gold Mine, SC, 10 cents. Gold was discovered in South Carolina in 1827 by Colonel Benjamin Haile on his farm in Kershaw County. Within a few years he had erected a stamp mill, supposedly only the second one built in the U.S., and mining was begun in earnest. The mine continued to produce intermittently for the next 175 years, and even though recently closed, the property is on the market and very well may reopen soon. The token was issued around 1900 and is one of three denominations presently known. This 10 cent specimen is presently unique.



2. Planters Hotel, Charleston, SC, Pay To Cashier 85 cents. South Carolina's only known hard rubber tokens were issued by the Planters Hotel in Charleston. Two denominations, a 50 cent token and the 85 cent token pictured above, are both known by only single specimens. It is surmised that these tokens were used as waiter's checks or livery checks, presented by hotel guests to purchase services at a nearby restaurant or livery stable. The Planters Hotel operated before, during, and immediately after the Civil War, so even though unlikely, there is a small chance that these tokens were used during the war. Hard rubber tokens like these were first made in the early 1860s, so it is not unimaginable that they could have made their way to Charleston soon after their introduction. Proving when they were first used would be very problematic, however. The building which housed the Planters Hotel is still standing and is now part of the historic Dock Street Theater.



1. R.L. Baker, Charleston, SC, One Glass Soda Water. South Carolina's number 1 token is also its oldest. Operating a pharmacy in downtown Charleston in the 1830s, R.L. Baker offered his customers one of the latest fads - soda water. And to help advertise this new refreshment he employed some small fashionable tokens made of a new alloy called Feuchtwanger's metal. Dated 1837, these soda checks are now collected as part of the Hard Times Token series. As South Carolina's only entry in that popular series, a specimen of one of Baker tokens usually sports a four-figure price tag even though at least two dozen are known to exist. The specimen pictured above was once owned by exnumia pioneer John J. Ford, Jr.

Well, that's my top 10 picks. Other collectors of South Carolina tokens may have a different opinion on some of them, or may even have an entirely different list. But that's the best part about it, one really can't argue with another person's favorites.

New Finds from South Carolina

Tony Chibbaro

I've made several new finds this year, but I'll report on just two in this issue of CARTSNEWS. But before I do, I'd like to comment on one aspect of the new discoveries and that is the fact that they keep on coming. Since the South Carolina token book went to the printer 20 years ago, I've cataloged over 1000 new tokens. Many of these were simply newly discovered denominations from merchants already listed in the book, but a good percentage were tokens from previously unknown merchants. And it is truly astounding that, 20 years later, they are being found at a faster rate than they were 20 years ago. It leads me to the conclusion that there are many, many more tokens out there to be found.

Today's new finds begin with a token that I surmised to exist back in 1989 but had not encountered until February of this year. Listed in *South Carolina Tokens* were two issues from the Willmont Oil Mills. A token "good for 100 pounds of cotton seed hulls" was cataloged with a Pelzer, SC address. And a token "good for 500 pounds of cotton seed meal" was listed with a Williamston, SC address. In doing research for the book on this company, I noted that a branch of the business was also operated in Piedmont. This makes sense when it is seen that the name of the company, Willmont, is simply a contraction of the town names of Williamston and Piedmont. Even though I had not encountered a token from this company with a Piedmont address when the book was printed in 1989, I did think that it was likely that they had been issued.

Well, 20 years later, one has finally shown up. Note in the picture below that the token carries a Piedmont, SC address and is good for 500 pounds of cotton seed meal. The 28mm brass token is identical to the token from Williamston (catalog #2950-I) pictured on page 240 of

South Carolina Tokens, except for the Piedmont, SC address in place of Williamston, SC.



And now for a little history. The Willmont Oil Mills was first listed in the mercantile directories in 1908. That year the company appeared only under the business listings of Pelzer, SC. The following year, and for the next 15 years up through 1924, there are three branches listed for the company - Williamston, Pelzer, and Piedmont. For those of you who are not so informed, an oil mill processed the left over cotton seeds after the raw cotton was ginned. The seeds were then sent through a seed press and cottonseed oil was extracted. This oil was further refined and could be consumed by humans like other vegetable oils. The leftovers were then separated into two categories, hulls and meal. The meal could be fed to livestock or used as fertilizer. The hulls were usually added to cattle feed as roughage. Cotton seed is still processed similarly today, and active oil mills still operate in South Carolina in Pendleton, Due West, and Hartsville.



The second of this issue's new finds is from a previously unlisted merchant and sawmill operator. The 24mm aluminum token (see above) was issued by G.W. Fennell of Williams, SC. As can be read on the token, Fennell was a lumber manufacturer and was listed only for one year in the mercantile directories - 1923. There are tokens in existence from nearby Walterboro that were issued by an F.S. Fennell, who was also a lumberman. This Fennell also operated in the early 1920s so it is very possible that they were brothers, or some other relation. At any rate, tokens from both Fennells are extremely rare - three tokens are known from F.S. and only one token is known from G.W.,

which, by the way, probably stands for George Washington.

NORTH CAROLINA NEW FIND

Don Bailey

It seems that, at least for me, finding any sort of North Carolina token is getting more and more difficult. But I was lucky enough to trade an Inman Mills token for a very nice piece recently.



**LUMBERTON COTTON MILLS / (ORN) /
LUMBERTON, / (ORN) / N.C. / (ORN) // GOOD FOR /
ONE / BOX – OCT BR 31mm.**

Obviously this is a production piece good for producing one box of something – wish we knew what. According to Bob King, the Lumberton Cotton Mills were in operation from 1902 to 1923. There was also a mill store from 1910 to early 1920.

CLASSIFIED ADS

TRADE

SPENCER SOUTHERN RR TOKENS--the 10, 25, 50, \$1, and \$5. VF-EF. Would split the series. Other NC desired. Lamar Bland, 22 Sunrise Place/Durham, N.C. 27705 or blandl@elon.edu.

SELL or TRADE

CAROLINA COAL CO. 5 TOKEN. Edkins NC 2507-A5; (rarity 10). Will consider cash; prefer trade for mining tokens or scrip. Have other denominations; may trade them at later date. Rare Carolina tokens to trade for mining tokens, paper scrip. David E. Schenkman, PO Box 366, Bryantown, MD 20617. 301-274-3441. dave@turtlehillbanjo.com

WANTED

ANY AND ALL SOUTH CAROLINA EXONUMIA. From the ultra rare to the common. Let me know what you have available for sale. Tony Chibbaro, PO Box 420, Prosperity, SC 29127 chibbaro@mindspring.com 803-252-1881

GEORGIA TOKENS, ENCASED, MASONICS AND ALL EXONUMIA. Have North Carolina material to trade. Randy Partin, 1314 Keystone Pointe, Auburndale, FL 33823 email: RPAR10@VERIZON.NET

CARTS Membership and Dues: Membership in CARTS is open to anyone interested in the exonumia of the two Carolinas. Annual dues are \$10.00 and should be mailed to the treasurer, Bob King. Checks should be made payable to CARTS.

CARTSNEWS: CARTSNEWS, the newsletter of CARTS, is published four times per year in February, May, August, and November.

Advertising: Each member is encouraged to submit one classified ad per issue. These ads are free to members. Free ads should be no more than 50 words in length. No ads will be run continuously; a new ad must be submitted for each issue. The editor reserves the right to edit ads for length and any ad thought not to be in the best interest of the hobby will be rejected.

Paid advertising is also solicited. The rate per issue for paid ads is as follows. One quarter page \$3.00, one half page \$6.00, and full page \$11.00. Any paid advertising, along with payment, should be sent to the editor by the fifteenth of that month before the month of issue. So, for example, advertising copy for the May issue should be received by the editor by April 15. Camera ready copy will be accepted, but the editor will also compose ads from your rough copy if you desire. As with free advertising the editor may reject any ad thought not in the best interest of CARTS or the hobby at large.